

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4236.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

#### AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 4236, OMNIBUS PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 4236.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

#### VACATING ORDERING OF YEAS AND NAYS ON H.R. 4233, SAVINGS IN CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to vacate the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4233) to provide for appropriate implementation of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 in Federal construction projects, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4233.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONCURRING IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2799, SAVINGS IN CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2799) to provide for appropriate implementation of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 in Federal construction projects, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Savings in Construction Act of 1996".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Metric Conversion Act of 1975 was enacted in order to set forth the policy of the United States to convert to the metric system. Section 3 of that Act requires that each Federal agency use the metric system of measurements in its procurement, grants, and other business-related activities, unless that use is likely to cause significant cost or loss of markets to United States firms, such as when foreign competitors are producing competing products in non-metric units.

(2) In accordance with that Act and Executive Order 12770, of July 25, 1991, Federal agencies increasingly construct new Federal buildings in round metric dimensions. As a result, companies that wish to bid on Federal construction projects increasingly are asked to supply materials or products in round metric dimensions.

(3) While the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 currently provides an exemption to metric usage when impractical or when such usage will cause economic inefficiencies, amendments are warranted to ensure that the use of specific metric components in metric construction projects do not increase the cost of Federal buildings to the taxpayers.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 4 of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (15 U.S.C. 205c) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by striking "Commerce." in paragraph (4) and inserting "Commerce"; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) 'full and open competition' has the same meaning as defined in section 403(6) of title 41, United States Code;

"(6) 'total installed price' means the price of purchasing a product or material, trimming or otherwise altering some or all of that product or material, if necessary to fit with other building components, and then installing that product or material into a Federal facility;

"(7) 'hard-metric' means measurement, design, and manufacture using the metric system of measurement, but does not include measurement, design, and manufacture using English system measurement units which are subsequently reexpressed in the metric system of measurement;

"(8) 'cost or pricing data or price analysis' has the meaning given such terms in section 304A of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 254b); and

"(9) 'Federal facility' means any public building (as defined under section 13 of the Public Buildings Act of 1959 (40 U.S.C. 612) and shall include any Federal building or construction project—

"(A) on lands in the public domain;

"(B) on lands used in connection with Federal programs for agriculture research, recreation, and conservation programs;

"(C) on or used in connection with river, harbor, flood control, reclamation, or power projects;

"(D) on or used in connection with housing and residential projects;

"(E) on military installations (including any fort, camp, post, naval training station, airfield, proving ground, military supply depot, military school, or any similar facility of the Department of Defense);

"(F) on installations of the Department of Veteran Affairs used for hospital or domiciliary purposes; or

"(G) on lands used in connection with Federal prisons,

but does not include (i) any Federal Building or construction project the exclusion of which the President deems to be justified in the public interest, or (ii) any construction project or build-

ing owned or controlled by a State government, local government, Indian tribe, or any private entity."

#### SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION IN ACQUISITION OF FEDERAL FACILITIES.

(a) The Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (15 U.S.C. 205 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 13 the following new section:

#### "SEC. 14. IMPLEMENTATION IN ACQUISITION OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Construction services and materials for Federal facilities shall be procured in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, section 2377 of title 10, United States Code, title III of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 251 et seq.), and section 3(2) of this Act. Determination of a design method shall be based upon preliminary market research as required under section 2377(c) of title 10, United States Code, and section 314B(c) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 264b(c)). If the requirements of this Act conflict with the provisions of section 2377 of title 10, United States Code, or section 314B of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, then the provisions of 2377 or 314B shall take precedence.

"(b) CONCRETE MASONRY UNITS.—In carrying out the policy set forth in section 3 (with particular emphasis on the policy set forth in paragraph (2) of that section) a Federal agency may require that specifications for the acquisition of structures or systems of concrete masonry be expressed under the metric system of measurement, but may not incorporate specifications, that can only be satisfied by hard-metric versions of concrete masonry units, in a solicitation for design or construction of a Federal facility within the United States or its territories, or a portion of said Federal facility, unless the head of the agency determines in writing that—

"(1) hard-metric specifications are necessary in a contract for the repair or replacement of parts of Federal facilities in existence or under construction upon the effective date of the Savings in Construction Act of 1996; or

"(2) the following 2 criteria are met:

"(A) the application requires hard-metric concrete masonry units to coordinate dimensionally into 100 millimeter building modules; and

"(B) the total installed price of hard-metric concrete masonry units is estimated to be equal to or less than the total installed price of using non-hard-metric concrete masonry units. Total installed price estimates shall be based, to the extent available, on cost or pricing data or price analysis, using actual hard-metric and non-hard-metric offers received for comparable existing projects. The head of the agency shall include in the writing required in this subsection an explanation of the factors used to develop the price estimates.

"(c) RECESSED LIGHTING FIXTURES.—In carrying out the policy set forth in section 3 (with particular emphasis on the policy set forth in paragraph (2) of that section) a Federal agency may require that specifications for the acquisition of structures or systems of recessed lighting fixtures be expressed under the metric system of measurement, but may not incorporate specifications, that can only be satisfied by hard-metric versions of recessed lighting fixtures, in a solicitation for design or construction of a Federal facility within the United States or its territories unless the head of the agency determines in writing that—

"(1) the predominant voluntary industry consensus standards include the use of hard-metric for the items specified; or

"(2) hard-metric specifications are necessary in a contract for the repair or replacement of parts of Federal facilities in existence or under construction upon the effective date of the Savings in Construction Act of 1996; or

"(3) the following 2 criteria are met: